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Senate confirms Bush as director of CIA

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WASHINGTON—Former Republican chairman George Bush, President Ford's choice to succeed William E. Colby as director of the CIA, was confirmed yesterday by the Senate.

The vote was 64-27, and one senator, Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R., Conn.), voted "present." Weicker said that he could not vote for Bush because of Bush's past political activities but that he could not oppose him.

Elsewhere yesterday, CIA Director Richard M. Helms said that members of Congress sometimes did not want to be told about "dirty tricks."

"On occasion they really didn't want to know all that much about it because it could be embarrassing to them politically" if the operations were exposed, Helms told the Senate Government Operations Committee.

Helms said that if a new committee was formed to monitor the CIA it should be briefed on covert operations before they are undertaken.

"If there's going to be an oversight

committee, I think it ought to be in on the takeoff," Helms, now ambassador to Iran, said.

Helms, whose CIA role currently is under investigation by the Justice Department, said he was willing to take full responsibility for everything done by the agency during his term as director from 1967 to 1973. There were "a couple of things that went a little farther than I realized," Helms acknowledged.

In other developments, the House Select Committee on Intelligence approved a recommendation that the lump-sum cost of each intelligence agency be publicly disclosed in the future.

The proposal was approved 9-4 over objections that the disclosure would enable enemies to follow the trends of intelligence spending in the United States.

Senate approval of Bush came nearly three months after he was nominated. Several Democratic senators had said that Bush's political past should disqualify him from holding the highly sensitive post.